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RESPIRO - Responsibility in Procurement

EUROCITIES is inviting experts to participate in an expert meeting (or Sounding Board) on developing socially responsible procurement standards to be applied in Europe for textiles and clothing, as part of the RESPIRO project.

Title	Sounding Board meeting on “socially & ethically responsible procurement for textiles and clothing”
Location	Brussels
Host	EUROCITIES
Date	11 June 2007
Language	English
Duration	1 day - 11:00 until 17:30
Framework	The meeting will take place within the framework of the European RESPIRO - Responsibility in Procurement - project. The project aims to increase the inclusion of social and ethical requirements in public and private sector purchasing activities through encouraging an exchange of experiences between public and private sector procurers and suppliers.
	RESPIRO is being carried out by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and EUROCITIES in cooperation with the social partners in the construction and textiles sector. It is co-funded by the European Commission, Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and runs from December 2006 to December 2007.
Meeting purpose	The aim of the meeting is to develop easy to use standards / criteria for European public authorities to use in the procurement of textiles and clothing.
	All those attending the meeting will receive a background paper introducing the key issues to be discussed, and a set of draft standards to be considered.
Topics discussed	We will aim to define standards / criteria to be used for public procurement for the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combating child labour and forced labour • Promoting fair wages and good working conditions • Promoting non-discrimination and equal opportunities policies • Promoting labour market inclusion • Training and personal development opportunities for staff • Use of environmentally and ethically responsible materials & treatments • Ensuring fair working conditions and environmental protection all along the supply chain
Outcomes	A draft set of European socially responsible procurement standards / criteria for use in the procurement of textiles and clothing.
Organisers	EUROCITIES
Cost	Attending the Sounding Board meeting is free of charge. Participants are generally expected to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses, however, a limited budget is available to cover some costs upon request.

Target groups	<p>15-20 people</p> <p>Representatives from the following stakeholder groups will be invited to participate in the Sounding Board meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade unions; • Industry representatives; • Representatives from the European Commission; • Representatives of networks, associations, scientific institutions and NGOs involved in the topic of social issues in the textile sector; • Local authority representatives involved in tendering for textiles and clothing (public sector purchasers); • Researchers; • Private sector purchasers.
Benefits	<p>Through taking part in this multi-stakeholder dialogue process, participants will benefit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receiving the latest EU and national developments and related regulations • Receiving the latest information, technical advice and practical guidelines on socially and ethically responsible procurement standards in the textile sector • Present their initiatives and expertise within a unique forum • Collaborating with experts from around Europe • Receiving good practice examples • Taking part in influencing the development of European standards for socially responsible procurement in the textile sector.
Didactic character	The Sounding Board will consist of an introductory presentation on the RESPIRO project and the proposed standards / criteria followed by moderated interactive discussions on the standards on the basis of the background document prepared.
Venue	<p>EUROCITIES</p> <p>1, Square de Meeûs</p> <p>B-1050 Brussels</p>
Further information	<p>If you would like further information on the Sounding Board meeting or on the RESPIRO project please contact Francesca Crippa (EUROCITIES)</p> <p>E-mail: francesca.crippa@eurocities.eu</p> <p>Tel: +32 2 552 08 78</p> <p>Website: www.respiro-project.org (will be available in May)</p> <p>Address: 1, Square de Meeûs; B-1050 Brussels</p>